

Allowance rules will necessarily come up for consideration, and I assure this House that we, Heads of Departments, will gladly submit ourselves to any reduction that may be decided upon eventually, but I would emphatically urge that the rates of Travelling Allowance of subordinate officers should not be interfered with except in the direction of substantially raising them. In conclusion, pending the general revision of the Travelling Allowance rules, the allotments provided for Travelling Allowance under all heads may remain as they are, unreduced. Any piecemeal or arbitrary reduction at this stage without taking up the question as a whole and arriving at a considered decision will paralyse the working of the administrative machinery.

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

Mr. President—Sir,

Most of the non-official members who have spoken prefaced their remarks with an expression of gratitude to His Highness' Government for bringing into existence this Legislative Council, where they are afforded opportunities of making their views known to Government regarding matters of administration. As an official member of this body, I should like to say that I cordially reciprocate that feeling. We, the official members, welcome these opportunities of exchanging views, quite as much as our non-official friends do. I think it will help us to realise that wisdom is not a monopoly of the official side, and I dare say, some such realization will dawn on the minds of non-official members as well.

The First Grade College.—

To turn to matters connected with the department of which I am in charge, I find most of the criticisms of the non-official members were directed against the First Grade College, and therefore, that should first call for explanation on my part. It would seem from the remarks made by critics that the starting of a First Grade College in Cochin was a venture that was rushed into, in a fit of madness, as it were. I should like to briefly narrate the history of this affair to show that this was not the case. Ever since I came to be connected with this department, complaints from all sorts of people reached us that the Education

Department and the Government were neglecting their duty in not providing Cochin with a First Grade College. They used to accuse the Government of apathy and culpable neglect. Well, I remember about 9 or 10 years ago, during the administration of Mr. Bhore, when I happened to be in charge of the department, I was asked to draw up a scheme for a First Grade College, and I did draw up one. But when I realised the financial responsibilities that the Darbar would be undertaking, I said that it appeared to me that the State could send all its young men and women who passed the Intermediate Examination to the Madras Colleges and pay all their expenses there, and that would be very much cheaper than maintaining a First Grade College in Cochin; and the idea was then dropped. But the situation changed afterwards. When I made that statement, the Madras Colleges were open to our students. Our students were welcomed there. The whole situation has changed with the introduction of the new Madras University Act. This is the position in which we stand now: In Madras they are going to have, what they call, a residential University. And so, in regard to University education, we must, any day, be prepared to be cut off from Madras; and thus, the question, what are we to do for the University education of our young people, assumed a serious aspect. Were our students to go begging to the doors of second-rate and third-rate colleges in the Mofussil? The number of our students going in for University education was increasing. It was after mature deliberation we arrived at this decision, and then I addressed the Madras University on the subject. Some members expressed the opinion that Government could have left it to private agencies. When I addressed the Madras University on behalf of the Government, there was no prospect of an aided agency undertaking the starting of a First Grade College here. I tried my best to induce private agencies to co-operate with the Education Department. It was when I failed that I addressed the Government.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

When was it that the St. Thomas got its affiliation?

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

It was months after that. The Government was very glad to co-operate with an agency like the St. Thomas. At a meeting at Trichur, got up to welcome Fr. Palocaren on his return from England, at which I happened to preside, the raising of the St. Thomas' College to a First Grade College was suggested in the address, and I said Government would welcome it from what I knew of their attitude; but Fr. Palocaren replied that the Church had its duties towards the poor, had to provide for Secondary education, and had other responsibilities. It was some time after this that I addressed the Madras University on behalf of Government, and in my communication to the University I pointed out that there were two strong Second Grade Colleges in the State and no First Grade College either here or in the neighbouring District of Malabar, so that, if the University sanctioned the opening of a First Grade College in Cochin, it would answer the requirements not only of Cochin, but of Malabar.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

Sir, may I ask whether the Bishop of Trichur did not openly tell the Diwan that they were to get affiliation of a First Grade College in Cochin?

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

I told you that I had addressed the Madras University many weeks previous to that.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

My only question is whether we did not get our affiliation of the First Grade College, after it was known to the public that the grant of the First Grade College affiliation to the St. Thomas was impending.

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

The Government were informed about the application for the affiliation of the St. Thomas College several weeks after we had applied for the affiliation of the Ernakulam College. Besides, what we wanted most was Science—Chemistry, Physics and Zoology. The St. Thomas' College could afford to have only History, and History, you know, is just now a superfluous commodity in the educational market.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

If a decent grant be given to them, they would open Science classes there.

Mr. C. MATTHAI (*Director of Public Instruction*).

I had no information. When I applied for the affiliation of the Ernakulam College, I stated as my ground that there was no First Grade College in Cochin nor in the neighbouring District of Malabar, but later on, St. Thomas and Palghat have come into the field, and we are now having perhaps too much of a good thing. That much about the First Grade College.

Secondary Education.—

Many of the members are of opinion that we are spending too much on Secondary education, and that Secondary education should be left to private bodies. Several members spoke about the expensive nature of Secondary education. You cannot form a correct idea about it, unless you take the income and the expenditure together. You have more than 3 lakhs under Educational income, and most of this comes from Secondary schools, the fees in the Primary department being only nominal. The bulk of the income is from your Secondary schools, so that, when you speak about the expenditure that we incur on Secondary schools, you should take into account the income from those institutions. You will see that very many of our Boys' Secondary schools are self-supporting. Taking the figures for 1909, the High School, Ernakulam, for instance, worked at a profit of Rs. 2,154, excluding expenditure on buildings. The Trippunittura High School worked at a profit of Rs. 840. There are Secondary schools newly started where the expenditure is heavier. Take the case of Mulanturuttu. We find there a net expenditure of Rs. 1,142; at Narakkal a net expenditure of Rs. 726; at Cranganur a net expenditure of Rs. 1,824. There is the Chittur High School where the net expenditure is only Rs. 13; from Kunnamkulam we get a profit of Rs. 980; so that, you see, these Boys' Secondary schools are more or less self-supporting. We are not spending much upon them.

Mr. A. B. SALEM (*Jews*).

May I know, Sir, why you give a reduced grant to Primary schools in which English is taught as an